

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XR, UN

SUBJECT: POLISH CONTRIBUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: WARSAW 5781

1. POLISH AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI TALKED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL ON NOVEMBER 7 AT A SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION ABOUT THE POLISH CONTINGENT TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE MIDDLE EAST. TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID THE POLISH REGIME HAD BEEN MOST RELUCTANT TO UNDERTAKE THIS MISSION. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED, THE POLES IN FACT HAD TURNED DOWN THE FIRST SUGGESTION FROM THE SOVIETS THAT THEY SHOULD CONTRIBUTE PERSONNEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST. IT WAS ONLY AFTER BREZHNEV MADE A PERSONAL TELEPHONE CALL TO GIEREK THAT THE DECISION WAS REVERSED AND THE POLES AGREED TO GO ALONG.

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2. TRAMPCZYNSKI INDICATED THAT THE POLISH PARTICIPATION IN

THE MIDDLE EAST WAS NOT POPULAR IN POLAND AMONG THE PUBLIC; HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT POPULAR ATTITUDES SEEMED TO FAVOR THE ISRAELIS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE POLISH PARTICIPATION IN ICCS IN VIET-NAM HAD BEEN DIFFICULT ENOUGH AND HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE ANGUISH ON THE PART OF THE POLISH REGIME BOTH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EFFORT REQUIRED AND THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD ENSUED FROM POLISH PARTICIPATION. TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID THAT ADDING THE MIDDLE EAST BURDEN ON POLAND WAS NOT PARTICULARLY WELCOME AND HE FEARED IT COULD CAUSE ADDITIONAL STRAINS FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PERSONNEL RESOURCES AS WELL AS IN THE POLITICAL FIELD.

3. STOESSEL EMPHASIZED AGAIN TO TRAMPCZYNSKI THE IMPORTANCE WE CONTINUED TO ATTACH TO THE ICCS AND NOTED THAT WE FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE POLISH CONTRIBUTION IN THE ICCS SHOULD NOT BE DIMINISHED IN ANY WAY BY POLISH PARTICIPATION IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN EFFORT. TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT REPEATED THAT THE SITUATION WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR POLAND. RUSH

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